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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Forty-first session
10-21 March 1997
Agenda item 3 (a)

FOLLOW-UP TO THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN: REVIEW OF MAINSTREAMING IN ORGANIZATIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM

United Republic of Tanzania*: draft resolution

Older women, human rights and development

The Commission on the Status of Women,

Recalling its resolution 36/4 of 20 March 1992, in which it emphasized the need to adopt an approach for the advancement of women that takes into account all stages of life, so as to identify measures that respond to women's needs,[1]

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 49/162 of 23 December 1994 in which the Assembly called attention to the fact that the United Nations had estimated that there were 208 million women aged 60 and above in 1985, of which about half lived in the developed world and half in the developing world, and that by the year 2025 that number had been projected to increase to 604 million older women for the world as a whole, of which nearly 70 per cent would be living in the developing countries,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 40/30 of 29 November 1985, in which it was emphasized that the elderly must be considered an important and necessary element in the development process at all levels within a given society,

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* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of 77 and China.

[1] Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1992, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. I.C.

Aware that age segregation, in addition to sex stereotyping, makes the social and economic problems of older women even more acute and that they are often viewed as beneficiaries only and not as contributors to development,

Calling attention to the urgent need to develop methodologies to improve the data collection of disaggregated statistics by gender and age and to identify and evaluate the different forms of activities of older women which are not normally recognized as having an economic value, in particular in the informal sectors and as caregivers,

Also recognizing the importance of increasing options and opportunities for older women's economic and social development in developing countries,

Taking into consideration the fact that the United Nations has proclaimed 1999 as the International Year of Older Persons,[2]

Taking also into consideration the Secretary-General's report on the fourth review and appraisal of the International Plan of Action on Ageing,[3]

1. Invites the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to pay particular attention to discrimination on grounds of age when evaluating national reports on the implementation of the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

2. Recommends that the Commission, which has been assigned a central role in monitoring the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in all policies and programmes within the United Nations system, should ensure that the contributions and needs of women of all ages, including those of older women, are taken into account;

3. Also recommends that the preparations for the International Year of Older Persons include a gender perspective;

4. Invites the Statistical Office of the United Nations, in cooperation with the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, to expand the conceptual analysis and undertake a follow-up study on their pioneering work on methods of compiling and analysing statistics on older women which would provide specific techniques to improve the use of available data;

5. Also invites the Institute to develop analytical tools and methodologies for identifying options and mechanisms for valuating and fully recognizing the role of older women as important members of the social, economic, political and cultural spheres and for identifying the barriers to the participation of older women in those spheres;

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[2] General Assembly resolution 47/5.

[3] E/CN.5/1997/4.

6. Further invites the United Nations Development Fund for Women to assist developing countries in increasing options and opportunities for older women's economic and social development by providing technical and financial assistance for incorporating older women's dimension into development at all levels;

7. Reiterates the request made to the Division for the Advancement of Women by the Commission in its resolution 36/4 to establish, in cooperation with non-governmental organization's model profiles of the current situation of older women which will permit all countries, whatever their level of development, to make the necessary projections;

8. Decides that at its forty-second session, under the agenda item "Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men", it will consider the status of older women and make substantive recommendations thereon;

9. Also decides that, at its forty-second session, in examining the critical area of concern "Human rights of women", it will also pay attention to the violation of older women's rights;

10. Requests the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the key global issues regarding the differential impact of population ageing on men and women as a contribution to the International Year of Older Persons and to submit the report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its forty-third session.